

On-My-Own Playgroup

Natick Recreation &
Parks Department

Program Guide
2013-2014





ON-MY-OWN PLAYGROUP MISSION

At *On-My-Own Playgroup*, children engage in play for enjoyment, recreation and safety in mind. Kids grow up so fast and have very little time...to be a kid...so we encourage the children at *On-My-Own Playgroup* to explore the room at their own pace and learn how to play well with others.

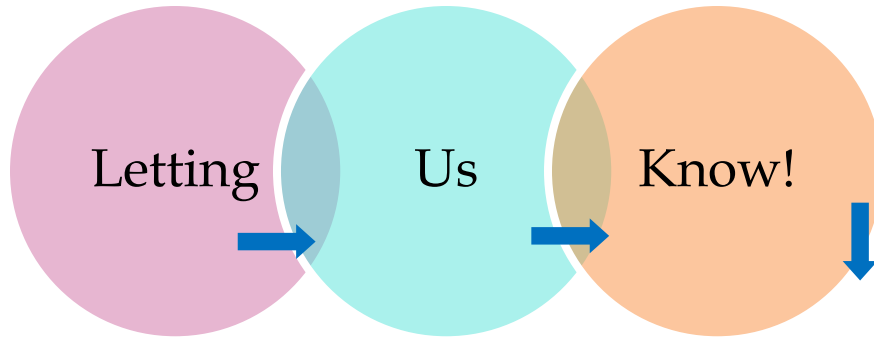
OUR SCHEDULE

AM SESSION (2 Year Olds): 9:00-11:00
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Michelle Rodriguez & Katy Foley

PM SESSION (3-5 Year Olds): 11:30-2:00
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Kim Condon & Katy Foley



COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Please let us know ANYTHING you may feel is helpful for us to know about your child, including, but not limited to:

- **Medical Conditions/Allergies:** We need to know if you are sending any **LIFE SAVING MEDICATION** with your child, i.e.: Epi Pen. If so, you MUST fill out our Medical Form (included in this guide) and have it signed by your Pediatrician. Please note: we do not have a Nurse on staff.
- **Illness:** If your child is sick the day of or within 24 hours of Playgroup, please keep your child home. Illness spreads very quickly with children of this age group. If your child has a fever, vomiting/diarrhea, excessive coughing, runny nose please do not send him/her to Playgroup. If your child is not




feeling well while at Playgroup, we will call to have you pick-up him/her.

- **Any Changes at Home:** If there is a parent traveling, illness in the family, moving, etc...these things may weigh heavily on your child. It is helpful for us to know about these kinds of changes to help your child while they are with us at Playgroup.
- **Who Will Be Picking Up Your Child:** Please let us know, if someone other than yourself will be picking up your child at the end of Playgroup.

TIPS FOR A HAPPY DROP-OFF

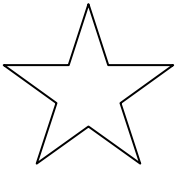
If this is your child's first drop-off experience, please make sure to follow what you tell your child! **If you break the plan, you teach your child that any part of the plan is disposable-including pick-up!** Even if your child is tearful when you depart as planned (most children are able to stop crying AFTER their parent leaves), rest assured that you are continuing to reassure him/her that your behavior is reliable. Our facilitators are prepared to reassure a child who is distressed. However, we will call you if we are unable to console your child. We welcome you to stay the first week of Playgroup if you would like to be a



Talk about
Playgroup with
your child on a
daily basis.

comfort for your child in this NEW environment. Please note: We ask that parents be “boring” ...by bringing a book, magazine, computer...so that your child will want to play with the toys in the room, not you. Please see one of our facilitators to make a plan for staying.

A great book to read your child prior to attending Playgroup is called: “Llama Llama Misses Mama” by Anna Dewdney. You may also find this video-book on YouTube!



AM Session Only: If you need to drop-off something you forgot to bring (snack, drink, clothes) please do not bring it to the Playgroup room while in session. When children see a parent, they think it is pick-up time. Please go to the Main Office and let them know you have something to drop-off. They will call us and we can come to get it. Also, if you need to pick-up early, please go to the Main Office and we will bring your child to you.



POTTY TALK & WHAT TO BRING



We DO change diapers, if that is okay with you. Please send an extra diaper or two in your child's bag. Also, if your child is "potty trained" (meaning: they go to the bathroom when away from home) we try our best to help them be successful. However, if we do not see "potty signs" or if your child does not tell us, an accident may happen.

PLEASE hang your child's bag and coat outside the Playgroup room on a numbered hook. Please make sure your child's name is on the front of their bag. It is helpful to LABEL all items belonging to your child. Please bring a snack or lunch into the Playgroup room to the cubby area.

WHAT TO PACK:

- Peanut Free Snack (Lunch) & Drink
- Extra shirt, pants, diaper/underwear & socks
- *It is best to send your child in clothes they can get wet/messy.
- Family Picture for our "Family Playgroup Wall"



OUR FACILITATORS

Mrs. Kim Condon

Previous to co-directing *On-My-Own Playgroup*, Kim was a program director for 15 years, taking care of elders with Alzheimer's. She teaches an art class for adults with special needs and works two nights at IVG MetroWest a 24/7 ER animal hospital in Natick. Kim is married to Jamie and has a stepson Aidan, along with 3 dogs: Wally, Finn & Abby.
Kim is a 4th generation Natick resident.



Mrs. Michelle Rodriguez

Certified in Early Childhood Education, Michelle has 17 years of experience working with children. She was a preschool teacher in South Florida and has vast experience in working with children and families from diverse backgrounds. Michelle is happily married to Christian, and together they have two children, CJ and Gaby. From 2002-2010, Michelle had her own daycare to help support her two passions: to provide a loving, nurturing and enriching environment for young children and to be home for her own two beautiful children.



Mrs. Katy Foley

With a background in child development and Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy, Katy has 14 years experience working with children. Originally from California, she worked there as a counselor at an elementary school and high school. Katy lives in Natick with her husband John, daughter Kalyse, and dog Coco Bean. We are so excited about Katy joining the *On-My-Own Playgroup* team.



OUR PICK-UP PLAN

1. Please arrive at the 2nd Playgroup door, past the windows at 11:00 AM or 2:00 PM.
2. Our facilitators will look for parents and dismiss your child from the Playgroup room one-by-one. They will have their snack/lunch bag with them.
3. If your child has a project, you may collect it from the project table.
4. If you wish to speak with one of our facilitators about your child, please wait until pick-up is complete. If there is something we wish to speak with you about, we will write a note. Please feel free to look over the note and discuss with us after pick-up is complete.
5. If you are going to be late, PLEASE CALL US! We understand that things happen. However, if you are late picking up your child on a regular basis (for the 3rd time), we will need to charge a fee for staff to stay beyond their schedule.





FAMILY PHOTO:

We love having a family photo on our Family Photo Wall for each child to look at when they miss Mom/Dad and any other family member they love, even pets! Please put names on the back of the photo to help us when chatting about the picture.

Please send the first day of Playgroup.

Please feel free to leave a message, write a note or see us personally if you have any concerns or questions about your child's experience. We may send home a note or see you before you leave if there is something we would like to share with you.

Main Office # 508-647-6530

Playgroup Room (Monday 8:45-11:15, Tuesday-Thursday 8:45-2:15) # 508-647-6539

Email: recreation@natickma.org



Testimonials

We ENCOURAGE feedback about our program. If you have any comments/suggestions you may leave a note in the Main Office for Aaron Friedman, Program Director



"One of my daughters is entering first grade this year and the other kindergarten. They attended Playgroup at the Natick Recreation Department since they were 2. Playgroup has been a wonderful experience for all of us. The girls learned how to socialize and function independently. This is a safe and nurturing environment that my children adored. The instructors are professional, courteous and above all wonderful with all the children."

—Lisa M.

"Our son has been with On-My-Own Playgroup since he was 3yrs old, and his teachers were our partners in helping Andrew find his "listening ears" and "gentle hands". :) He also developed his love for building blocks and story-telling... more importantly we left for Kindergarten with many great memories of happy moments with friends!"

- The Gutierrez Family

"My youngest daughter was in On-My-Own playgroup for 3 years and loved every minute of it. She made a lot of new friends and at the same time, learned everything from writing to numbers to letters to colors, through play. She is now in kindergarten and took with her a lot of skills to succeed!!!"

-Nadia D.

"The staff at On-My-Own Playgroup are so caring, cheerful, and very organized. They made my daughter Stella and I feel so comfortable and at home! Thank you On-My-Own!!"

-Sarah G.